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distributing information in the form of optical disks. For example, it has been found that CD-ROMs may be manufactured in a variety of shapes while still allowing the CD-ROMs to be read by conventional computer hardware.

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In view of the speed at which technology is currently developing, and at which the storage of information in forms other than paper is being readily accepted by the masses, the possibilities for the ready exchange of information is only limited by the imagination of those at the cutting edge of technology and marketing. In fact, the versatility of compact digital storage mediums has to date only been applied in a limited number of applications.

One area in which the transfer of information is limited by the use of traditional information transfer techniques is consumer products. Specifically, when you purchase a new stereo, the box is filled with a variety of papers explaining how to assemble the stereo, how to use the stereo, who to call when the stereo malfunctions, etc. In many situations, the paper information may not answer highly specific questions easily and understandably concerning a new purchase. Similarly, when you receive a prescription, the bag is often filled with written information concerning the prescription you have just purchased. Unfortunately, however, this prescription information is often impossible to make sense of or only